

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2019

The Honorable José Serrano  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Committee  
H-310, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Committee  
H-310, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Robert Aderholt,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The ATE program emphasizes two-year Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) focusing on the education of technicians for next generation technologies.

As you begin work on FY 2020 appropriations, we respectfully request that you include at least \$66,000,000 for the Advanced Technological Education program, which would include proposals from Minority Serving Institutions and institutions that support recruitment, retentions, and completion of students underrepresented in STEM in technician education programs.

The ATE program has become NSF's largest investment in two-year colleges since its creation in 1993. The ATE program features two-year college educators as leaders in the ATE centers located across the country. The competitive grant program's structure also encourages partnerships with employers and college educators. As a result, ATE centers devise innovative model programs that reach students from secondary schools to community colleges and universities<sup>1</sup>. The centers also generate career pathways for students to follow from certificate and degree programs to employment in established and emerging industries, aiming to close the skills gap and provide a pipeline of skilled technical workers for U.S. companies.

Our country is undergoing a technological revolution, with recent developments in smart phones, bioengineering, agriculture, coding, app development, 3D printing, and the industrial internet of things. Our manufacturers increasingly need employees that possess a combination of skills and understanding of innovation to adopt new technologies. Recent reports show our manufacturers having a growing skills gap and are finding it difficult to retain talent with the right skills. According to the most recent data from the Department of Labor, there are nearly 500,000 open jobs in U.S. manufacturing. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine,

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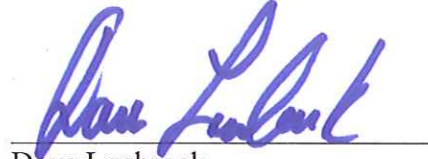

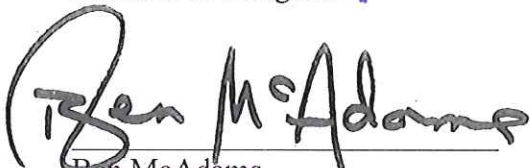
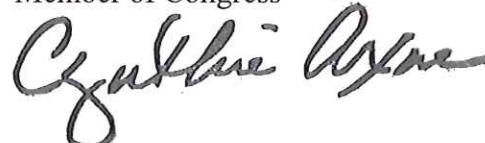
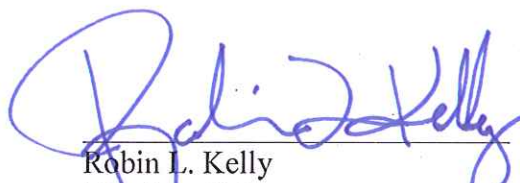
<sup>1</sup> <https://atecenters.org/welcome/>

employer surveys, and industry have raised concerns that the United States may not have an adequate supply of skilled technical workers to achieve our national competitiveness and economic growth objectives.

Clearly, more needs to be done for our country to retain its economic competitiveness and world leadership on innovation. Programs such as ATE, can help us drive the right policies to close our growing labor gaps and develop the skills needed for technical workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress  
Haley Stevens  
Member of Congress  
Roger W. Marshall, M.D.  
Member of Congress  
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress  
Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress  
Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress  
Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress  
Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress  
Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



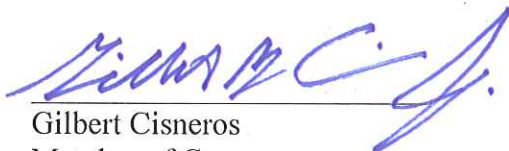
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Katie Hill  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



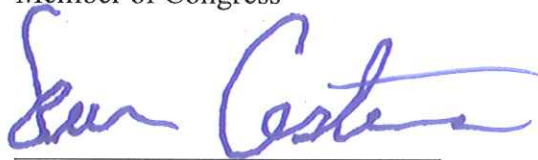
Gilbert Cisneros  
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



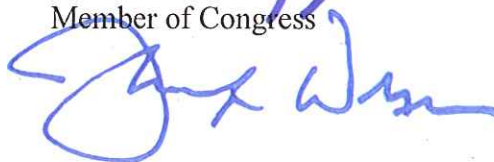
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
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Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb  
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